



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 19, 2013

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. The beginning of the week saw low temperatures, some areas in the 20s, with much of the state seeing frost in the mornings. The frost resulted in some damage to crops and fruit trees but exactly how much damage there was is still being evaluated. With good weather and warmer temperatures later in the week, farmers were out in full force trying to get the rest of the corn and soybean planting done. Some of the early plantings are beginning to emerge and hopefully were not impacted very much by the frost. Hay cutting and other first cuttings are underway and will pick up as the weeks go on. Rain is still needed for much of Pennsylvania as the rainfall this year is still well below average. Once some warmer days arrive crops will really start to grow, but rain is still much needed. Overall, it was a good week for getting planting, hay cutting and other field activities done. Field activities for the week included field preparation for planting, plowing; planting of corn, soybeans and finishing up planting other crops; cutting alfalfa and other forage. Spring plowing is getting more underway and is 92% complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 19, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
2	23	67	8

Crop Progress: Corn is 70% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 72% but ahead of the 5-year average of 60% planted. Corn is 27% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 39% and the 5-year average of 29% planted. Barley is 60% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 96% and the 5-year average of 89% headed. Barley is 5% yellow, which is behind progress at this time last year of 67% and the 5-year average of 28% headed. Winter wheat is 51% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 82% and the 5-year average of 59% headed. Oats are 98% planted, which is the same progress at this time last year of 98% but ahead of the 5-year average of 92% planted. Oats are 85% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 95% but ahead of the 5-year average of 77% planted. Soybeans are 41% planted, which is the same progress at this time last year of 41% and the 5-year average of 30% planted. Soybeans are 16% emerged, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 11% and the 5-year average of 9% planted. Potatoes are 78% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 83% but ahead of the 5-year average of 59% planted. Alfalfa first cutting is 16% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 48% and the 5-year average of 30% cut. Timothy/Clover first cutting is 7% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 20% and the 5-year average of 9% cut.

Crop Condition: Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 52% good, and 28% excellent. Oats conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 29% fair, 46% good, and 25% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, and 14% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 64% good, and 10% excellent. Quality of Hay made conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 65% good and 25% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 3% very poor, 11% poor, 17% fair, 45% good and 24% excellent. Peaches conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 100% good and 0% excellent. Apples conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 100% good and 0% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 12, 2013: Above-average temperatures in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, and New England provided ample time for fieldwork and promoted crop development during the week. Most notably, portions of the Pacific Northwest and northern Maine recorded

temperatures averaging more than 12°F above normal. Elsewhere, pockets of cool air in some southern locations postponed planting, as producers waited for higher soil temperatures. In the Midwest, favorable early-week weather conditions were replaced by late-week moisture in some areas. However, producers in most states were afforded a larger window for fieldwork activities, compared to recent weeks.

Corn: Aided by somewhat improved weather conditions in the Midwest, producers planted 16 percent of the nation's corn crop during the week. By May 12, twenty-eight percent of the corn was in the ground, 57 percentage points behind last year and 37 points behind the 5-year average. This represents the slowest planting pace since 1993. Corn was planted in fields that could support farm equipment across much of the Midwest; however, many areas continued to report soils with surplus moisture. Nationally, 5 percent of the corn crop was emerged by week's end, 47 percentage points behind last year and 23 points behind the 5-year average. The unusually slow planting pace, followed by cooler-than-normal weather, limited seed germination in many of the major growing regions. Soybeans: By week's end, 6 percent of this year's soybean crop was planted. This was 37 percentage points behind last year and 18 points behind the 5-year average. This represents the slowest planting pace since 1993. Producers throughout the Midwest maximized a limited window of favorable weather early in the week to begin planting.

Winter Wheat: Heading of the winter wheat crop advanced to 29 percent by May 12, forty-four percentage points behind last year and 22 points behind the 5-year average. Heading delays of 21 percentage points or more were evident in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Despite the overall delay in heading, some producers in southern Texas began harvesting their winter wheat crop during the week. Nationally, 32 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 28 percentage points behind the same time last year. In Kansas, reports indicated that just under half of this year's winter wheat crop was free of freeze damage, following unseasonably cold weather in late April and early May.

Other Small Grains: With double-digit seeding evident in seven of the nine estimating states during the week, producers nationwide had sown 70 percent of this year's oat crop by May 12. This was 27 percentage points behind last year and 15 points behind the 5-year average. Improved weather conditions in many areas pushed planting ahead and closer to the normal pace. By week's end, emergence reached 47 percent, 38 percentage points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Nationally, barley producers had sown 55 percent of the crop by week's end, 36 percentage points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. In North Dakota, soils dried quickly due to high winds, allowing producers over 5 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. By May 12, one-quarter of the barley crop was emerged, 29 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Forty-three percent of the spring wheat crop was sown by week's end, 49 percentage points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. In Minnesota and North Dakota, warmer, drier weather promoted fieldwork during the week; however, overall progress remained over 3 weeks and over 2 weeks behind normal, respectively. Nationwide, 10 percent of the spring wheat crop was emerged by May 12, fifty-three percentage points behind last year and 22 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 19, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 19, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	34	55	-2	0.15	2	3.55	-1.71	22	292	146	637
Franklin_AG	83	29	54	-4	0.20	3	5.98	0.21	20	294	149	637
Meadville-Port	81	31	56	1	0.11	3	3.90	-1.62	24	325	205	687
Clarion	81	29	53	-6	0.16	3	5.27	-0.76	20	219	46	541
Springboro	80	30	52	-5	0.04	1	5.16	0.11	19	253	96	575
Warren	83	29	52	-5	0.10	2	3.73	-2.12	22	247	112	580
North Central												
Bradford Region	81	24	52	0	0.05	2	4.07	-1.63	22	236	154	569
Oswayo	80	22	50	-5	0.11	2	3.86	-1.42	17	164	58	458
Kane	81	28	52	-2	0.17	2	5.77	-0.26	19	175	96	478
Laporte	76	28	50	-8	0.10	2	5.51	-0.12	18	135	-20	443
Lock Haven	86	28	55	-4	0.02	1	4.93	-0.32	14	262	87	623
Coudersport_1SW	81	23	49	-6	0.14	3	5.08	-0.20	20	146	40	450
Renovo	85	28	55	-4	0.02	1	5.09	-0.16	16	270	95	622
Ridgway	81	25	52	-3	0.13	3	5.75	-0.27	20	210	113	534
Stevenson Dam	83	27	53	-2	0.05	1	4.26	-1.76	17	223	126	556
Towanda	79	29	52	-6	0.02	2	4.04	-0.95	14	175	16	514
Wellsboro	78	25	50	-4	0.05	2	5.13	0.88	17	132	48	446
Williamsport	84	30	57	-3	0.06	1	5.28	-0.22	16	300	76	695
Northeast												
Hawley	78	28	51	-5	0.13	3	4.48	-1.36	20	139	33	450
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	29	55	-5	0.24	3	3.05	-2.09	16	288	97	673
Susquehanna	78	29	52	-3	0.04	1	4.43	-1.62	16	164	70	495
West Central												
Butler	83	29	56	-2	0.01	1	5.21	-0.39	20	295	126	643
New Castle	83	31	56	-2	0.01	1	4.48	-0.60	15	313	154	669
Slippery Rock	87	28	56	-1	0.10	1	4.63	-0.66	15	340	199	688
Central												
Altoona/Blair	85	30	57	-2	0.13	2	4.78	-0.56	19	328	122	712
DuBois	80	29	55	-3	0.23	3	3.46	-2.23	18	299	153	654
Lewistown	85	32	57	-4	0.02	1	5.00	-0.37	15	320	74	721
Middletown	82	35	60	-3	0.26	3	4.32	-1.50	18	350	64	775
Prince Gallitzi	82	25	54	-3	0.28	2	3.90	-3.23	18	252	122	611
Selingsgrove	84	30	55	-4	0.00	0	5.06	-0.39	14	246	45	626
State College	81	32	56	-4	0.12	2	5.82	0.78	19	283	95	659
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	31	57	-4	0.12	1	4.47	-1.63	15	316	80	725
Lehighton	81	31	54	-6	0.15	1	4.78	-1.16	17	221	-3	604
Matamoras	80	33	54	-5	0.09	1	3.99	-2.63	13	206	23	577
Mt_Pocono	76	32	51	-3	0.15	2	4.28	-2.60	17	160	82	489
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	32	61	3	0.21	1	4.21	-1.57	16	447	238	851
Indiana_PA	82	28	57	-2	0.20	3	4.54	-1.73	17	365	164	746
Myersdale	83	26	52	-6	0.27	2	5.91	-0.70	18	209	42	545
Chalk_Hill	85	23	53	-8	0.68	3	5.04	-1.35	19	258	17	599
Pittsburgh Intl	85	31	60	2	0.38	1	4.41	-0.89	16	429	199	821
Connellsville	87	31	57	-4	0.45	3	4.31	-2.08	21	308	67	682
Waynesburg	86	29	57	-2	0.39	2	3.54	-2.33	16	324	133	693
South Central												
Biglerville	81	31	58	-4	0.19	3	4.19	-1.45	18	318	33	728
Everett	88	27	55	-4	0.18	2	5.09	-0.52	19	266	75	634
Hanover	80	30	58	-5	0.07	4	4.33	-1.31	20	302	17	709
Harrisburg_AP	84	33	60	-3	0.19	3	4.56	-1.26	18	357	66	787
South Mountain	78	27	54	-5	0.29	5	5.93	0.59	20	210	10	579
York	81	30	58	-5	0.34	4	3.58	-2.25	17	323	29	717
Southeast												
Green Lane	81	34	57	-3	0.25	3	6.09	-0.13	16	287	68	696
Hamburg	81	33	57	-2	0.06	2	5.39	-1.39	18	295	123	700
West_Chester	82	35	57	-5	0.19	2	5.44	-1.08	15	286	9	688
Lancaster	81	32	58	-4	0.25	4	3.77	-1.97	19	302	62	702
Neshaminy Falls	81	33	58	-3	0.45	2	4.97	-1.83	18	308	75	730
New Holland	82	34	59	-2	0.21	4	4.73	-1.01	17	340	100	766
Philadelphia	82	41	62	-2	0.27	3	4.43	-1.50	17	439	120	887
Philadelphia NE	81	38	59	-5	0.35	2	4.34	-1.59	17	351	32	780
Reading	84	34	59	-2	0.07	3	4.97	-1.50	17	374	153	805
Sellersville	81	31	56	-5	0.20	2	6.03	-0.19	15	273	54	661
Doylestown_AG	80	35	58	-3	0.23	2	5.87	-0.93	16	316	83	734

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS County, Judy A. Behney

Adams County had frost on Monday and Tuesday mornings, 35 and 28 degrees. Tuesdays was a heavy frost. Some damage to fruit possible due to frost. Daytime temperatures went into 60's. Wednesday thru Friday morning temperature was 50 degrees and daytime 70's. Sporadic showers and thunderstorms throughout the county this week but not much accumulation. Some days were mixed with clouds and sun. Today seems to be the most sun we had all week so will be good for all producers. Corn and soybeans continue to be planted. Some corn is now emerging but needs some heat to bring it along. Soil moisture level for the year is still not adequate and soil temperature isn't the warmest yet. Producers are worried with it being May 17th and not having a lot of their crops planted yet, and with the final plant dates for crop insurance approaching quickly. Small grains continue to mature but are short in height. Hay also seems to be shorter this year so the yields will be affected. Some forage crops are being harvested but they also are short. All fruit trees are done blooming now and the cold temperatures beginning of this week may have some damage to the crop. Vegetables are being planted throughout the county also. Strawberries are in bloom. Overall the producers are busy in the fields and anxious to get their forage crops harvested.

CAMBRIA County, Dolly Little

This week was a crazy weather week - frost on Monday night and a heavy freeze on Tuesday (25 degrees). By the end of the week temperatures back up to high 70's then back down on Sunday. Planting corn and soybeans continue.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Good week for field work. Top soil needs moisture. <1/16" of rainfall for the week.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

The frost damaged the apple blossoms. The temp dropped to 24 degrees.

CRAWFORD County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Just a great week for field work. Tractors were in the fields all week preparing seed beds and planting. Also quite a bit of excellent first cutting hay was taken off due to the field conditions and good drying weather. A lot more farmers smiling this week than last.

ERIE County, Nancy Lewis

Reports were received that frost received may have an effect on the sweet cherry and grape crop.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Some areas received temperatures near 30 degrees Monday and Tue mornings, but too early to tell what damage if any done to the fruit. Light showers only temporarily halted field work, but were only good for three days of hay making this week. Everything growing well.

LACKAWANNA County, John Esslinger

Tuesday's frost event caused significant crop loss in tree fruit in the Northeast. The extent of the damage is still being evaluated.

LANCASTER County, Jeffrey Graybill

Early corn and soybean stands look very good. Some significant frost damage to corn in spots. Will delay maturity of affected plants but should grow out of it in a week or so.

LEBANON County, Charlene Zeigler

Alfalfa was cut and chopped for forage between hit or miss showers. There were a few warm days this week that helped with soybean emergence. Crop seeding continues.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

The final big push to complete the planting of corn and soybeans took place this week in our county. Several nights we had planters operating late into the night. Monday and Tuesday at sunrise, the temperature was 36 and 34 degrees respectfully. The morning of May 14th between 1:00 and 2:00 AM the temperature bottomed out at 28 degrees. Some local frost - freeze damage occurred in our orchards and gardens. The planted crops are in need of rain at this time - topsoil is dry.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

The below normal temperatures of last weekend had an impact on the hay crop, and slight damage is beginning to show up on the barley. Corn and soybean planting is continuing at a steady pace, and some of the early planted crops are beginning to emerge. The main activities for the week were planting, chopping forage, and spraying.

TIOGA County, Pamela Barnes

Sunshine or just cloudy days to do field work. Lots of crop work being done: planting, spreading manure, disking, plowing, mowing, it is all happening at a good pace with good weather to work in. Will need some rain shortly to get crops to germinate and hay that is mowed to start growing again.

WESTMORELAND County, John Lohr

Early week freezing morning temperatures stunned forage and young corn. Overall it was a good week for planting. Got some much needed rain mid-week. Grass hay is just beginning to head and is ready to cut.

WESTMORELAND County, Tom Sierzega

Frost Monday and Tuesday; rest of week in 70's and 80's. Frost may have damaged some fruit trees. Great week for planting and field prep for corn and beans. Limited amount of hay starting to be harvested.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 19, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	92	95	83
Corn, planted	70	72	60
Corn, emerged	27	39	29
Barley, heading or headed	60	96	89
Barley, turning yellow	5	67	28
Wheat, heading or headed	51	82	59
Oats, planted	98	98	92
Oats, emerged	85	95	77
Soybeans, planted	41	41	30
Soybeans, emerged	16	11	9
Potatoes, planted	78	83	59
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	16	48	30
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	7	20	9

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 19, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	17	52	28
Oats	0	0	29	46	25
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	18	65	14
Timothy clover stand	0	3	23	64	10
Quality of hay made	0	1	9	65	25
Pasture	3	11	17	45	24
Peaches	0	0	0	100	0
Apples	0	0	0	100	0

Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. *Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.* For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

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